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Enter terms
Search

[Reset](#) Sort By: Relevancy (descending)

- [Relevancy \(ascending\)](#)
- [Title \(ascending\)](#)
- [Open Date \(descending\)](#)
- [Close Date \(descending\)](#)
- [Release Date \(descending\)](#)

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Displaying 41 - 50 of 4031 results

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Published on SBIR.gov (<https://www.sbir.gov>)

1. [S2.01: Precision Spacecraft Formations for Telescope Systems](#)

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

This subtopic seeks hardware and software technologies necessary to establish, maintain, and operate precision spacecraft formations to a level that enables cost effective large aperture and separated spacecraft optical telescopes and interferometers (e.g., <http://planetquest.jpl.nasa.gov/TPF/>, <http://instrument.jpl.nasa.gov/steller/>).

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2. [S2.02: Proximity Glare Suppression for Astronomical Coronagraphy](#)

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

This subtopic addresses the unique problem of imaging and spectroscopic characterization of faint astrophysical objects that are located within the obscuring glare of much brighter stellar sources. Examples include planetary systems beyond our own, the detailed inner structure of galaxies with very bright nuclei, binary star formation, and stellar evolution. Contrast ratios of one million to ten billion over an angular spatial scale of 0.05-1.5 arcsec are typical of these objects. Achieving a very low background requires control of both scattered and diffracted light.

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3. [S2.03: Precision Deployable Optical Structures and Metrology](#)

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

Planned future NASA Missions in astrophysics, such as: Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) and the New Worlds Technology Development Program (coronagraph, external occulter and interferometer technologies) will push the state of the art in current optomechanical technologies. Mission concepts for New Worlds science would require 10 - 30 m class, cost-effective telescope observatories that are diffraction limited at wavelengths from the visible to the far IR, and operate at temperatures from 4 - 300 K.

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4. [S2.04: Advanced Optical Component Systems](#)

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

The National Academy Astro2010 Decadal Report specifically identifies optical components and coatings as key technologies needed to enable several different future missions, including:

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5. [S2.05: Optics Manufacturing and Metrology for Telescope Optical Surfaces](#)

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

This subtopic focuses primarily on manufacturing and metrology of optical surfaces, especially for very small or very large and/or thin optics. Missions of interest include: Dark Energy Mission concepts (e.g., <http://wfirst.gsfc.nasa.gov>) Large X-Ray Mission concepts (e.g., <http://ixo.gsfc.nasa.gov/>), Gravity Wave Science Mission concepts (e.g., <http://lisa.gsfc.nasa.gov/>)

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6. [S3: Spacecraft and Platform Subsystems](#)

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

The Science Mission Directorate will carry out the scientific exploration of our Earth, the planets, moons, comets, and asteroids of our solar system and the universe beyond. SMD's future direction will be moving away from exploratory missions (orbiters and flybys) into more detailed/specific exploration missions that are at or near the surface (landers, rovers, and sample returns) or at more optimal observation points in space. These future destinations will require new vantage points, or would need to integrate or distribute capabilities across multiple assets.

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7. [S3.01: Command, Data Handling, and Electronics](#)

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

NASA's space based observatories, fly-by spacecraft, orbiters, landers, and robotic and sample return missions, require robust command and control capabilities. Advances in technologies relevant to command and data handling and instrument electronics are sought to support NASA's goals and several missions and projects under development. The subtopic goals are to:

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8. [S3.02: Thermal Control Systems](#)

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

Future Spacecraft and instruments for NASA's Science Mission Directorate will require increasingly sophisticated thermal control technology. Innovative proposals for the crosscutting thermal control discipline are sought in the following areas:

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9. [S3.03: Power Generation and Conversion](#)

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date:
09-08-2011

Future NASA science missions will employ Earth orbiting spacecraft, planetary spacecraft, balloons, aircraft, surface assets, and marine craft as observation platforms. Proposals are solicited to develop advanced power generation and conversion technologies to enable or enhance the capabilities of future science missions. Requirements for these missions are varied and include long life, high reliability, significantly lower mass and volume, higher mass specific power, and improved efficiency over the state of practice for components and systems.

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10. [S3.04: Propulsion Systems](#)

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date:
09-08-2011

The Science Mission Directorate (SMD) needs spacecraft with more demanding propulsive performance and flexibility for more ambitious missions requiring high duty cycles, more challenging environmental conditions, and extended operation. Planetary spacecraft need the ability to rendezvous with, orbit, and conduct in situ exploration of planets, moons, and other small bodies in the solar system (http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=10432).

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- [First](#)
- [Previous](#)
- [1](#)
- [2](#)
- [3](#)
- [4](#)
- [5](#)
- [6](#)
- [7](#)
- [8](#)
- [9](#)
- ...
- [Next](#)
- [Last](#)

```
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```